March 14, 2018

The Honorable Steve Knight
United States House of Representatives
1023 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Knight:

On behalf of the 2 million members of The American Legion, we are pleased to express support for H.R. 5177 entitled the *"Encouraging Veteran Employment Act of 2018."*

The *Encouraging Veteran Employment Act of 2018,* as currently written, will amend title 10 of United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans.
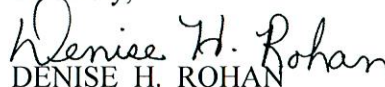
Under current law, the Department of Defense (DoD) is not authorized to give preferential selection to businesses that make significant efforts to employ veterans for DoD contracts. *The Encouraging Veteran Employment Act of 2018* would authorize the DoD to give the same preferential treatment to businesses that employ veterans as a large percentage of their workforce.

Military servicemembers risk their lives to keep our nation safe and have earned the opportunity to succeed once they decide to leave the armed forces and enter the civilian workforce. The American Legion has created and supported many programs and initiatives to support employers, in both public and private sectors, that fulfill their moral obligation to hire veterans. This bill allows an even playing field to companies that recognize the skills veterans bring with them from their military experience, such as persistence, reliability, conscientiousness and attention to detail.

Through Resolution No. 316, *"Support Employment of Veterans in the Public and Private Workforce,"* passed at the 2016 National Convention The American Legion supports legislative and administrative measures that seek to encourage and recognize organizations that hire veterans.

The American Legion applauds your leadership in recognizing the necessity of rewarding companies acknowledging the value in hiring our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

DENISE H. ROHAN
National Commander